

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

IN HONOR OF BONITA SHEPHERD'S
EXTRAORDINARY SERVICE TO
THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTA-
TIVES

HON. CHRIS COLLINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 17, 2015

Mr. COLLINS of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the admirable and steadfast service of Bonita "Bonnie" Shepherd. Bonnie is preparing to retire at the end of this year following 48 years of public service to the U.S. House of Representatives.

Bonnie started working in the House on June 18th, 1967. In the 48 years since, she has been an invaluable member of the Capitol Hill community. She began her lifelong commitment to public service working in the Rayburn Cafeteria, where she served thousands of tourists, Members, and staff. She continued her service, working the past 27 years for the Architect of the Capitol, where she helps transport Members to votes as an elevator operator. When she isn't helping get Members to votes on time, she is honoring our greatest American heroes and loved ones through her work in the House flag office.

I have only had the opportunity to know Bonnie for the last three years, but her commitment to service and gracious attitude have left an indelible impression on me and thousands of others who have gotten to meet her. I want to wish her the best as she begins her retirement, and thank her for her public service to our nation.

TRIBUTE TO PRINCIPAL FINANCIAL GROUP

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 17, 2015

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Principal Financial Group for being recognized with a 2015 Women of Innovation award at the eighth annual Women of Innovation Awards hosted by the Technology Association of Iowa. Overall, 10 women, along with a single corporation, were recognized with innovation awards. The award highlights today's extraordinary women and recognizes leaders in science, technology, engineering, and math.

Principal Financial Group is a Des Moines based global investment manager. More than 45 percent of the organization's IT professionals are women. Principal Financial is also involved in a number of efforts to support STEM education throughout the community and the entire state.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to represent community leaders like those at Principal Financial Group in the United States Congress and it is with great pride that I recognize them

today. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to join me in congratulating Principal Financial Group on receiving this award and wishing each of their employees nothing but continued success.

RECOGNIZING THE HUMANITARIAN EFFORTS OF ISRAELI HOSPITALS

HON. SCOTT GARRETT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 17, 2015

Mr. GARRETT. Mr. Speaker, I rise to today to recognize the efforts of the Israeli hospitals and medical teams treating the Syrians injured as a result of their country's continued violence.

Numerous Syrians travel to the Israeli border in their hour of need, and in an act of compassion Israeli hospitals have provided lifesaving medical treatment. Medical teams along the Syrian and Israeli border treat these Syrians in field hospitals, and those requiring more intensive medical treatment are transferred to one of four hospitals. Among the victims treated by these hospitals are innocent children who have been gravely injured by the violence.

These heroic efforts may seem inconceivable considering the longstanding conflict between the two nations. However, these Israeli hospitals demonstrate that by welcoming Syrians in need humanity trumps politics and hostility. The impact of this generosity goes beyond that of medical treatment. As one doctor from the Ziv Medical Center stated, the compassion shown by the Israeli medical teams is "planting the seeds of peace."

In an area of the world that has been plagued by violence and destruction, the assistance provided by these hospitals offers a beacon of hope. It is my hope that the seeds of peace will grow and that future generations may live amongst each other, no longer in hostility, but in solidarity and friendship.

HONORING MAJOR TRENT COLESTOCK

HON. K. MICHAEL CONAWAY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 17, 2015

Mr. CONAWAY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Army Major Trent Colestock, for his extraordinary dedication and service to the United States of America. Major Colestock will be moving on from his current assignment as an Army Congressional Liaison to the U.S. House of Representatives to Fort Hood, Texas.

Army Congressional Liaisons provide an invaluable service to both the Military and Congress. They assist Congressional Members and staff in understanding the Army's policies,

actions, operations, and requirements. Their first-hand knowledge of military needs, culture, and tradition is a tremendous benefit to Congress.

Raised in Texas, Major Colestock commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the Army's Field Artillery. He has served and commanded in a variety of assignments including service at Fort Drum, Fort Hood, the Pentagon, and in Iraq. Major Colestock was selected for the highly competitive Congressional Fellowship Program in 2011.

A few of Major Colestock's military awards include the Combat Action Badge, the Bronze Star Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal, and the Iraq Campaign Medal. He has also earned both the Parachutist and Air Assault Badges. He holds a Bachelor of Business Administration from Texas Christian University and a Master of Arts in Congressional Affairs from George Washington University.

Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to recognize the selfless service of Major Colestock as he proceeds to the next chapter in his remarkable career serving our great Nation. On behalf of a grateful Nation, I join my colleagues in recognizing and commending Major Colestock for his dedicated service to our Country. It is my distinct pleasure to join with Trent's family, friends, peers, as they honor the accomplishments of his outstanding ongoing career.

REMEMBERING JEAN STARKWEATHER

HON. JARED HUFFMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 17, 2015

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Jean Starkweather, who passed away in San Rafael, California, on November 23, four days shy of her 86th birthday. A lifelong advocate for the environment and a beloved leader in Marin County, Mrs. Starkweather will be remembered for her unyielding activism, her gentle spirit, and her steadfast sense of purpose related to protecting natural resources in Marin County.

Mrs. Starkweather was born in Seattle in 1929 and moved to San Rafael with her husband soon after graduating from Carleton College. She began her environmental advocacy in the early 1970s as chair of a local homeowners group, when she fought against developments on a hillside near Terra Linda. From there, she joined a litany of groups working to preserve natural spaces, including the Citizens Advisory Committee for the San Rafael, Audubon Canyon Ranch, and the Marin County Parks and Open Space commission.

Not only was Mrs. Starkweather involved with numerous conservation groups—she was a leader in practically every organization she joined. Throughout the decades, she helmed the San Francisco Bay Association, Marin Audubon Society, and Marin Conservation League (MCL), among others. Her involvement did not go unnoticed. She received the

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Marin Green Award and the Peter Behr Lifetime Achievement Award from the MCL, and was recognized by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for her contributions.

One area she was especially passionate about was protecting the San Rafael shoreline. Along with serving on MCL's Bayfront Committee, she conducted monthly bird counts, organized work parties to remove invasive plants, and tested water salinity. In 2003, San Rafael recognized the efforts of her and her husband, John, who passed away in 2001, with the creation of the Jean and John Starkweather Shoreline Park.

Mrs. Starkweather's persistent advocacy to preserve natural spaces, wildlife, and wetlands in the North Bay are worthy of our thanks and admiration. It is therefore appropriate that we pay tribute to her today and express our deepest condolences to her sons David, Stephen, and Tim.

RECOGNIZING THE SOUTH CHINA
SEA PEACE INITIATIVE OF TAI-
WANese PRESIDENT MA

HON. MIKE BISHOP

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 17, 2015

Mr. BISHOP of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, the United States and Taiwan enjoy deep and close relationship that covers areas including security, culture, and trade. Taiwan has played a significant role in promoting democracy in the East Asia and contributed to international development, humanitarian missions, and regional stability, such as in the South China Sea.

Earlier this year, Taiwan President Ma proposed the South China Sea Peace Initiative, calling on claimants in the region to resolve disputes peacefully through international laws, in particular the freedom of navigation and overflight, and consultations based on equality and reciprocity. I appreciate his leadership and efforts in promoting regional peace and stability.

On December 12, 2015, Taiwan's Minister of the Interior flew to the Taiping (Itu Aba) Island, which is the largest natural island in the Spratly islands and administered by ROC (Taiwan) government since 1946, and reiterated President Ma's South China Sea Peace Initiative. We encourage any efforts that contribute to lower regional tensions and hope all the parties involved will work together to maintain regional peace.

RECOGNIZING RON GAMBLE, VET-
ERAN AND OWNER OF VETERANS
UNITED CRAFT BREWERY

HON. ANDER CRENSHAW

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 17, 2015

Mr. CRENSHAW. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ron Gamble, a local Navy veteran and small business owner of Veterans United Craft Brewery, located in Jacksonville, Florida. Mr. Gamble, along with a group of military veterans, started the local craft brewery in 2013. As a former Naval Flight Officer,

Mr. Gamble spent eight years active duty in the Navy and four years in the reserves.

Mr. Gamble first found his interest in brewing craft beer when his wife, Sheryl, presented him with a gift-wrapped box containing a bucket, a funnel, tubing, and various other odd-looking components. It was a simple, beer making kit. With a few, carefully-chosen ingredients, the possibilities for experimenting with this new home brewing hobby were endless.

Hobby turned to passion, and Mr. Gamble attended the renowned Siebel Institute of Technology in Chicago, Illinois for professional brewing. After several years managing brewhouse and cellar operations at multiple breweries in the New England area, Ron and Sheryl headed back home to sunny Jacksonville, Florida.

Veterans United Craft Brewery opened in August of 2014 with a goal to expand as a regional brewery. Today, Veterans United Craft Brewery is working to be known throughout the state of Florida as a quality craft brewery.

Veterans United is not only a veteran owned business, but a veteran operated business. Mr. Gamble believes it is important to employ local veterans looking for work but also finds that they are some of the best employees. Walking into the taproom you will find the walls covered in memorabilia connected to Mr. Gamble and his service, as well as history through the years of all branches of the military.

It is truly an honor to recognize Mr. Gamble and his contributions he has made to our Jacksonville community. Mr. Speaker, I hope you will join me in this very special congressional salute to Navy Veteran and Jacksonville business owner, Ron Gamble.

REMEMBERING DENNIS REZENDES,
NATION'S FIRST HOSPICE AD-
MINISTRATOR

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 17, 2015

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, earlier this year, our nation lost a giant in the world of health care. Dennis Rezendes, one of the original creators of hospice care, passed away in June at his home, surrounded by family and friends and with care from the program he helped establish.

The son of second-generation immigrant parents, Dennis was born in Fall River, Massachusetts and grew up during the Great Depression. Enlisting in the United States Air Force following his graduation from high school, Dennis served his country with honor and distinction for six years during which time, as a Grand Control Approach operator, he was involved in the U.S. side of the Berlin Airlift. Following his honorable discharge, he attended the University of Maine where he graduated in 1957 with honors and a Bachelor of Science Degree in Public Management. He went on to earn his Master of Government Administration degree from the Wharton School of Business and Finance and the Fels Institute of Local and State government at the University of Pennsylvania.

Among his many professional endeavors, Dennis served former New Haven Mayor Richard Lee as the Director of Administration and

Budget Officer. It was during his time with the Lee Administration that I first got to know Dennis. He played an integral role in the rejuvenation of the City of New Haven, helping to initiate innovative programs designed to improve the physical and social state of the city and its residents.

Dennis' true passion was realized in 1974 when he joined a small group of doctors and nurses to create the first program of hospice care in the United States along with the construction of the first American hospice facility located in Branford, Connecticut. Dennis went on to found the National Hospice Organization where he served as its first Executive Director. He played a critical leadership role in the enactment of Medicare and Medicaid legislation and private insurance payment for hospice care as well as the enactment of innovative health legislation in Connecticut related to hospice care that was replicated in many other states.

His pioneering efforts were recognized by Presidents Carter and Reagan, former Speaker of the House of Representatives, Thomas "Tip" O'Neill, Senators Edward "Ted" Kennedy and Robert Dole as well as many others. Dennis' last effort in the hospice movement was the co-creation of Community Hospice Care in Anaheim Hills, California which grew to become the second largest program of hospice care in the country. Retiring in 1994, it is an understatement to say that Dennis left an indelible mark on our nation's health care system.

Above all else, Dennis was a deeply devoted family man. I extend my deepest sympathies to his wife, Beau; his daughter, Cheryl, and her husband Alan; his son Michael; his two stepsons Shane Hobart, and his wife Heather, and Seth, and his wife Nicole, as well as his six grandchildren August, Brook, Grace, Ethan, Eligh, and Jax.

Dennis Rezendes was an extraordinary man whose compassion and strong desire to make a difference changed the face of how we care for the terminally ill and their families in their last days. I consider myself fortunate to have known him and, like so many others, remain inspired by his vision and leadership. His is a legacy that will continue to touch the lives of those most in need for generations to come.

IN MEMORY OF MRS. AUDREY ANN
HOFFMAN LAWSON

HON. AL GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 17, 2015

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I would like to honor the memory of a civil rights activist and spiritual exemplar of the Houston community: Mrs. Audrey Ann Hoffman Lawson. With remarkable commitment, Mrs. Lawson dedicated her life to helping others, especially the young and the neediest.

Mrs. Lawson was born in St. Louis, Missouri on March 20, 1932. Mrs. Lawson met her husband, Reverend Bill Lawson, in St. Louis after they exchanged over 600 letters, wherein she affectionately became known as "Little Red." Married 61 years, Reverend and Mrs. Lawson reared one son and three daughters. They also founded the historic Wheeler Avenue Baptist Church as well as initiated and supported numerous programs to help the young